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1 state; and

2 WHEREAS, quality assessments are available to provide  
3 prospective workforce entrants with credentials that will  
4 assist them in qualifying for jobs matched to their skill  
5 levels; and

6 WHEREAS, these assessments may also provide constructive  
7 feedback to prospective workforce entrants about their true  
8 skill levels so that the entrants may participate in remedial  
9 or additional education to move into their desired positions;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, other states, including Kentucky and Louisiana,  
12 have successfully implemented a workplace readiness  
13 certification program that matches a prospective workforce  
14 entrant's skills level with an employer's required workplace  
15 skills; and

16 WHEREAS, a workplace readiness certification program may  
17 improve the overall competitiveness and attractiveness of New  
18 Mexico's workforce;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state workforce development board  
21 be requested to appoint a subcommittee of representatives from  
22 the state's workforce support agencies and programs, state and  
23 regional workforce development boards, public school and higher  
24 education workforce training providers and the business  
25 community to work through the governor's office of workforce

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1 training and development to study the feasibility of  
2 implementing a workplace readiness certification program in  
3 one-stop career centers, community colleges and public schools;  
4 and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state workforce  
6 development board subcommittee study include information on the  
7 implementation of workforce readiness certification programs in  
8 other states, the necessary assessment tools, an implementation  
9 plan, a time line and funding requirements; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state workforce  
11 development board subcommittee submit its findings to key  
12 employer groups, training providers and workforce agencies for  
13 comment and input and submit recommendations through the  
14 governor's office of workforce training and development to the  
15 appropriate legislative interim committees prior to November 1,  
16 2004; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
18 transmitted to the office of workforce training and  
19 development, state and local workforce development boards, the  
20 labor department, the economic development department, the  
21 human services department, the public education department, the  
22 association of community colleges, the association of commerce  
23 and industry and other publicly funded workforce support  
24 program organizations.